

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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TAGS: SPOP, BR

SUBJ: FAMILY PLANNING - FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 206774 (B) STATE 214516 (C) STATE 129730

SUMMARY: AFTER EARLIER UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO MEET WITH WALTER RODRIGUES, EMBASSY OFFICER FINALLY MANAGED TO HAVE A PERSONAL CONTACT WITH RODRIGUES AT BEMFAM IN RIO RECENTLY TO FOLLOW UP ON THE TOPICS COVERED IN REFTEL (C). DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, RODRIGUES REITERATED INTEREST IN OBTAINING AID/TITLE X ASSISTANCE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH OTHER INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS; HE CONFIRMED CONTINUED GOB'S UNOFFICIAL BLESSING TO BEMFAM'S PROGRAMS, AND STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM SOME STATE GOVERNORS FOR BEMFAM TO SEEK AID FUNDS TO EXPAND ITS COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMS AT STATE LEVEL. RODRIGUES HAS PRESENTED THE EMBASSY WITH A DRAFT PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF SANTA CATARINA CONTAINING A CLAUSE IN WHICH THE STATE GOVERNOR WOULD AUTHORIZE BEMFAM TO OBTAIN AID FUNDS. THAT GOVERNOR HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE MATTER AND APPROVED THE PROPOSED DRAFT AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. RODRIGUES GENERALLY RECONFIRMED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THE STATEMENTS HE MADE IN WASHINGTON REPORTED IN REFTEL (C). HE NOTED THAT HE HAS RECENTLY MET WITH
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SEVERAL OFFICIALS IN THE FIRST ECHELON OF THE GOB --

NAMELY THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, PLANNING, FINANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY -- WHO TOLD HIM THEY FAVORED BEMFAM'S COMMUNITY BASED FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS, AND THAT THEY REGARDED ITS ROLE AS AN IMPORTANT GROUNDWORK THROUGH WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO OBTAIN NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS. THOSE OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY TOLD RODRIGUES THAT IT WOULD STILL BE PREMATURE FOR THE GOB TO BECOME INVOLVED DIRECTLY WITH SUCH PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY IN AN ELECTION YEAR IN BRAZIL. RODRIGUES EMPHASIZED TO EMBOFF THAT EXTERNAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT HIS ONGOING AND FUTURE PROJECTS IS CRUCIAL AT THIS STAGE OF HIS PROGRAM. IN HIS VIEW, THE DAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BECOMES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FAMILY PLANNING, SUCH PROJECTS WILL BECOME OFFICIAL AND WILL PROBABLY NO LONGER DEPEND ON EXTERNAL RESOURCES.

2. AS EXAMPLES OF GOB SUPPORT AND BLESSING TO BEMFAM'S PROGRAMS, RODRIGUES MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING:

A. A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE OF APRIL 15, 1971, SIGNED BY FORMER PRESIDENT MEDICI, RECOGNIZING BEMFAM AS AN "ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC UTILITY;"

B. EIGHT STATE GOVERNMENT DECREES AND LAWS AND FIFTEEN MUNICIPAL DECREES AND LAWS ALSO RECOGNIZING BEMFAM AS ORGANIZATION OF "PUBLIC UTILITY" (THE MAIN ADVANTAGE FOR AN ORGANIZATION TO BE RECOGNIZED AS OF PUBLIC UTILITY IS THAT IT BECOMES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE PUBLIC FUNDS AND EXEMPTION OF TAXES);

C. CERTIFICATE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECOGNIZING BEMFAM AS A PHILANTHROPIC INSTITUTION;

D. RECEIPT OF FUNDS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND JUSTICE; AND

E. RECEIPT OF LETTERS OF COMMENDATION FROM MANY BRAZILIAN OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE BRAZILIAN SUPERIOR WAR COLLEGE.

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E. RODRIGUES PRESENTED TO EMBASSY OFFICER A DRAFT PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN BEMFAM AND THE STATE OF SANTA CATARINA (TO BE SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF) FOR THE MISSION'S CONSIDERATION. IT IS A DRAFT OF A STANDARD BEMFAM AGREEMENT WHICH, HOWEVER, WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CLAUSE: QUOTE IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE ACTIVITIES OUTLINED IN THE PREVIOUS CLAUSE, THE PARTIES WILL CONTRIBUTE WITH ALL THE HUMAN

AND MATERIAL RESOURCES OF WHICH THEY CAN DISPOSE, AND BEMFAM IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK FINANCIAL RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE BY PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL, SUCH AS THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH, FORD FOUNDATION, STATE SECRETARIATS, NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANCER, THE NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICE (INPS), THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID), MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIONS, INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING, PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS IN GENERAL UNQUOTE. (COPY OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT TO AMBASSADOR GREEN). BEING TRANSMITTED BY POUCH) RODRIGUES REPORTEDLY HAS THE SANTA CATARINA GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL FOR THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AND HOPES THAT THIS MAY SATISFY THE USG REQUIREMENTS.

4. RODRIGUES FINDS IT STILL DIFFICULT FOR BEMFAM TO APPLY FOR FUNDING BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNFPA, BECAUSE BEMFAM IS PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, AND THE REQUEST OF SUCH FUNDS WOULD REQUIRE DIRECT GOB INVOLVEMENT. AN IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH IN THIS AREA, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN RECENTLY ACHIEVED BY DR. AGUINAGA, FROM THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO (REFTEL B). IN THE ABSENCE OF AGUINAGA, WHO IS CURRENTLY ABROAD, AN EMBASSY OFFICER TALKED WITH AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR WHO WORKS WITH AGUINAGA, DR. LESLIE SCOFIELD, WHO CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE GOB TO SEEK UNFPA FUNDS FOR THEIR PROGRAMS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOB'S AUTHORIZATION DOES NOT INCLUDE TITLE X FUNDS. THEIR APPROACH, ACCORDING TO DR. SCOFIELD, IS TO FIRST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBTAIN GOB'S APPROVAL FOR INTERNATIONAL FUNDS, AND THEN MOVE TOWARD A REQUEST FOR A BILATERAL AGREEMENT LATER. THIS OPENING ON PART OF THE GOB, IF SUCCESSFUL, MAY ALSO PROVE TO BE USEFUL FOR BEMFAM IN THE FUTURE. COMMENTS: IF THE WORDING OF THE CLAUSE PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE IS ACCEPTABLE TO DEPARTMENT AND AID, AND IF THE SANTA CATARINA STATE GOVERNOR IS REALLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT SUCH A CLAUSE (WITH IMPLICATIONS OF PUBLICITY IN US) AND SIGN THE AGREEMENT, THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT ITS CURRENT REQUIREMENTS FOR USG ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL IN THIS STATE FAMILY PLANNING PROJECT WILL HAVE BEEN MET. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND AID'S COMMENTS ON RESPONSE THAT SHOULD NOW BE MADE TO RODRIGUES. CRIMMINS

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